

Message Text

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53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 181425Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4240

S E C R E T KABUL 5257

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHAN COUP: INITIAL, INDIRECT CONTACT WITH
DAUD REGIME

REF: A) STATE 140396; B) KABUL 5220; C) KABUL 5221; D) (-?)
1806, 3/31/72; E) STATE 56321, 4/1/72; F) KABUL 2042, 4/13/72

1. SINCE MOMENT IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT PRINCE DAUD HAD PROCLAIMED HIMSELF NEW CHIEF OF STATE FOR "AFGHAN REPUBLIC", WE HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR SOME UNOFFICIAL, INDIRECT CHANNEL TO DAUD THROUGH WHICH MESSAGES COULD BE PASSED WITHOUT VIOLATING INTENT OF 11 FAM 113.7 OR IN ANY WAY IMPLYING PREMATURE OFFICIAL RECOGNITION. RECORD OF USG RELATIONS WITH DAUD IN HIS EARLIER TERM AS PRIMIN GRAPHICALLY DEMONSTRATED HIS HYPERSENSITIVITY TO IMAGINED SLIGHTS. WE RECALL HE LONG NURSED AND MAY STILL NURSE BELIEF THAT US RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS FALL FROM POWER. I BELIEVE IT VERY IMPORTANT FOR OUR FUTURE RELATIONS HERE TO CONVEY IMPRESSION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE THAT US IN NO WAY OPPOSES HIS TAKEOVER, SO LONG AS WE ARE CONVINCED CHANGE OF REGIME IS PURELY INTERNAL AFFAIR. AS DEPT WILL RECALL FROM REFS D, E AND F, DAUD SOUGHT PROBE US ATTITUDES TOWARD POSSIBLE TAKEOVER IN SPRING OF 1972, TO WHICH WE GAVE GENERAL, THOUGH NOT NEGATIVE, REPLY.

2. USEFUL CHANNEL SURFACED IN PERSON OF ISMAIL OSMAN, FMYMER AFGHAN DIPLOMAT AND NOW CAREER UN CIVIL SERVANT, WHO IS DAUD'S NEPHEW. (REF C). INDIRECT CONTACT MADE LATE JULY 17 BY DCM LEWIS
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THROUGH DAVID SCOTT (ACTING UNDP RESREP) TO OSMAN, WHO OFFERED CONVEY ANY MESSAGES TO DAUD WHOM OSMAN SEEING FREQUENTLY. OSMAN TOLD SCOTT EARLY ON JULY 18 THAT DAUD WOULD PREFER RECEIVE ANY MESSAGE IN WRITING, HOWEVER, I HAVE DEMURRED TO

AVOID PROVIDING ANY EVIDENCE OF DE FACTO RECOGNITION.

3. DCM PASSED FOLLOWING POINTS ORALLY TO SCOTT JULY 18, FOR
TRANSMISSION TO DAUD BY OSMAN:

A. SINCE CHANGE OF REGIME HAD APPARENTLY OCCURRED AND
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS SUSPENDED, WE COULD SEND NO RPT NO WRITTEN
OR FORMAL COMMUNICATIONS TO DAUD AT THIS TIME;

B. REMINDED HIM OF INDIRECT, ORAL EXCHANGES OF MARCH-APRIL 1972;
DCM SAID HE PERSONALLY REGARDED THESE AS VALID EXPRESSION OF
CURRENT US ATTITUDE TOWARD RECENT EVENTS;

C. AMBASSADOR RECALLS CORDIAL CONTACTS WITH PRINCES DAUD AND NAIM,
AND SENDS TO DAUD HIS PERSONAL REGARDS IN THIS TIME OF
DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENTS;

D. EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NEW REGIME WOULD MOVE RAPIDLY TO
TAKE NECESSARY ORGANIZATONAL AND OTHER MEASURES TO MEET TRADITIONAL
REQUIREMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE,
SO THAT USG COULD THEN CONSIDER AT AN EARLY DATE REQUEST FOR
DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION PRESENTED TO DIPLOMATIC CORPS JULY 17
BY ACTING DEPFONMIN KARIM (REF B).
NEUMANN

SECRET

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